

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 2

YES	<p>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO EXPAND USES OF DEDICATED TAX REVENUES TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS AND FACILITIES ON PRESERVED OPEN SPACE LANDS</p> <p>Shall the amendment to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, expanding the authorized uses of the constitutionally dedicated Corporation Business Tax Revenue, to allow the use of 15% of the dedicated funds to fund the development of lands for recreation and conservation purposes, and beginning on January 1, 2016, allow the use of an additional 17% of the dedicated funds to fund the development of lands for recreation and conservation purposes, be approved?</p>
NO	<p>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>Since 1996, 4% of the annual revenue from the Corporation Business Tax has been constitutionally dedicated to fund environmental programs. Approval of this constitutional amendment would (1) expand the authorized uses of those revenues to fund improvements and facilities for recreation and conservation purposes on preserved open space lands, and to pay debt that may be incurred from the issuance of bonds for those purposes, and (2) change the allocation of funds for the existing authorized uses. The Constitution currently allocates 33% for hazardous discharge cleanup performed by the State, 17% for grants for air pollution control programs until 2016, a minimum of one-sixth (or 16.66%) or a minimum of \$5 million for water quality projects, and a minimum of one-third for funding loans or grants for underground storage tank programs and loans or grants for hazardous discharge remediation programs, and for an underground storage tank inspection program. This constitutional amendment would authorize 15% of the dedicated funds to be used to finance improvements and facilities for recreation and conservation purposes on preserved open space lands and an additional 17% for that purpose in 2016 by reducing the allocation of monies for water quality programs, State funded hazardous discharge cleanup, and the underground storage tank program, but would require an appropriation to the underground storage tank program if less than \$20 million is available in any year for that program.</p>